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Evil Flowers

1637 Volume 5 Chapter 21

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AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MIHIRO AKASHI PRESENTS
Chapter 21
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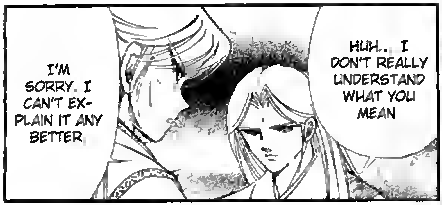
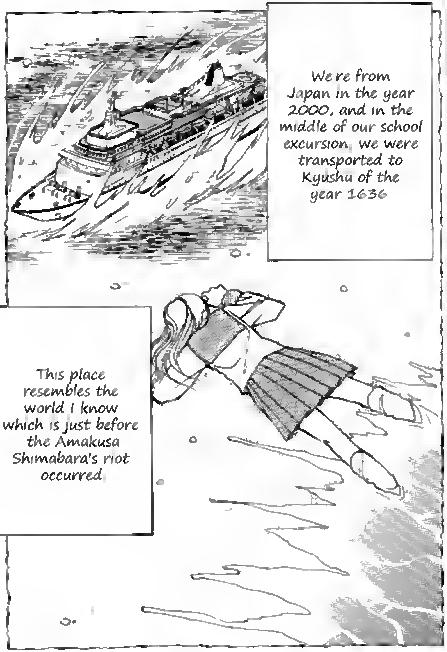
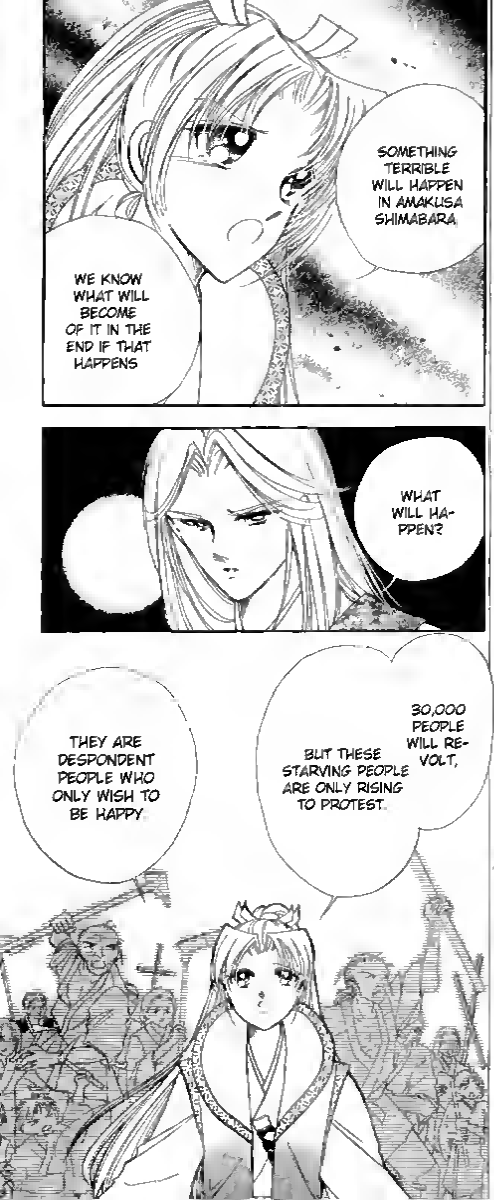
SHIROU DONO OF AMAKUSA.
PLEASE JUST TELL ME...ONE THING.
NO.
I COME FROM A DIFFERENT WORLD.
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
IS THAT... PARADISE?


I'M SORRY. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT ANY BETTER.
HUH.. I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN

IT'S THE FUTURE.
BUT IT'S NOT THE FUTURE OF THIS PLACE.


We're from Japan in the year 2000, and in the middle of our school excursion, we were transported to Kyushu of the year 1636
This place resembles the world I know which is just before the Amakusa Shimabara's riot occurred.


SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL HAPPEN IN AMAKUSA SHIMABARA
WE KNOW WHAT WILL BECOME OF IT IN THE END IF THAT HAPPENS
WHAT WILL HAPPEN?
30,000 PEOPLE WILL REVOLT,
BUT THESE STARVING PEOPLE ARE ONLY RISING TO PROTEST.
THEY ARE DESPONDENT PEOPLE WHO ONLY WISH TO BE HAPPY.

But since our arrival

history is changing bit by bit

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THESE PEOPLE?
THEY WILL ALL DIE.
!!
THE OLD, THE YOUNG, AND THE WOMEN TOO.
IT'S TRUE— EVERYONE WILL DIE.
IT'S RATHER TERRIFYING...
30,000 PEOPLE?
THESE 30,000 PEOPLE ARE UNITED BY THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH, TADANAO-SAMA.
FOR SOME REASON, EVERYONE CALLS ME GOD'S MESSENGER, BUT I'M NOT A CHRISTIAN.

AND I DIDN'T COME FROM PARADISE
YOU PROBABLY WON'T UNDERSTAND THIS EXACTLY EITHER.
BUT . EVERYTHING HAS STARTED ROLLING.
IT'S BECAUSE... BECAUSE...
IS IT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T WALK AWAY FROM THEM?
YES, IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE WILL DIE!
THERE IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

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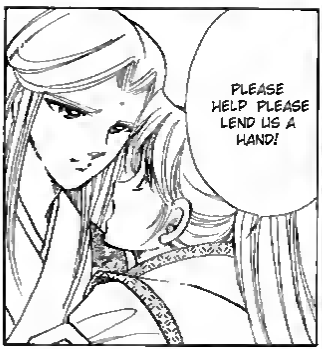

ALRIGHT.

Tha-
That's a quick reply...
HUH...
BUT I HAVE NEITHER THE ARMY NOR THE MONEY.
WHAT I HAVE IS ONLY MY NAME: MATSUDAIRA TADANAO.
TADANAO-SAMA...
IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BE USED NOW.
SLIDES

WHY AM I STILL ALLOWED TO BE ALIVE? IT'S RATHER BAFFLING.
IT'S PROBABLY— FOR THIS MOMENT THAT I'M LIVING FOR, ISN'T IT?
My
A blood oath...
cuts

I'M GIVING YOU THIS FLUTE TOGETHER
WITH THIS LETTER
A coat of arms with a mallow design
FALLS
My heart resonates together with this man
Matsudaira Tadanao
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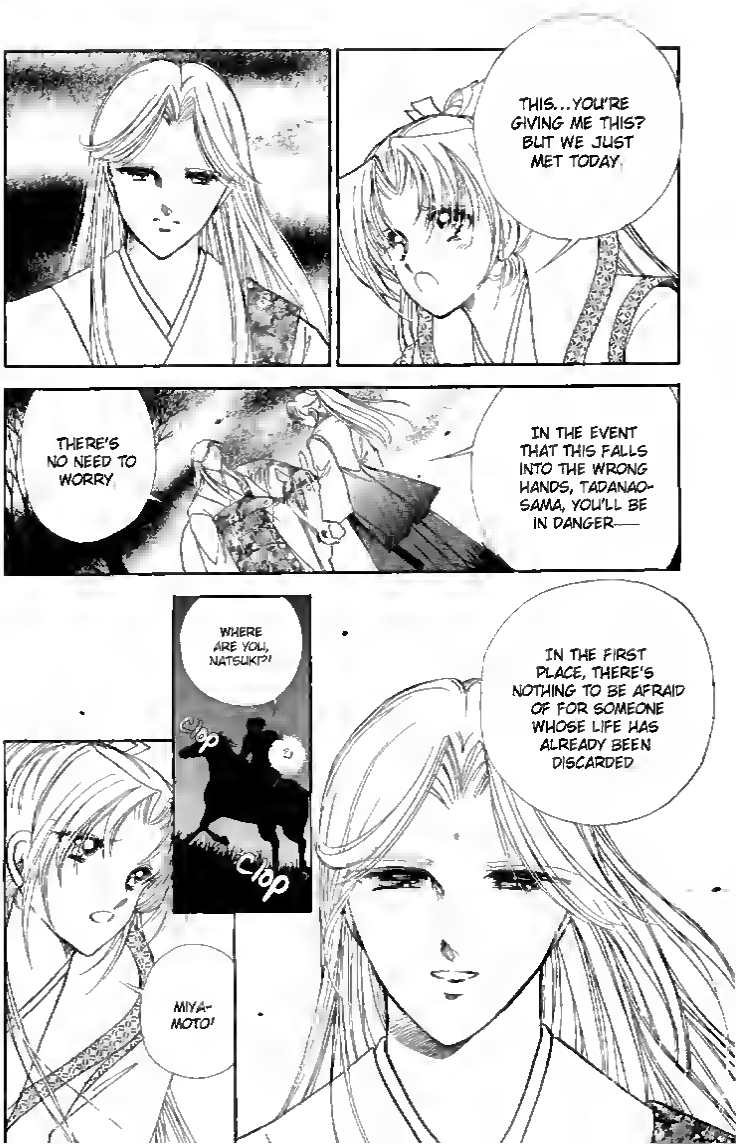
THIS...YOU'RE GIVING ME THIS? BUT WE JUST MET TODAY.
Oh!
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
IN THE EVENT THAT THIS FALLS INTO THE WRONG HANDS, TADANAO-SAMA, YOU'LL BE IN DANGER——
WHERE ARE YOU, NATSUKI?!
Clop
Clop
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF FOR SOMEONE WHOSE LIFE HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCARDED.
MIYA-MOTO!

COME WITH US TOO, TADANAO-SAMA!
GO, SHIROU-DONO. THE PURSUERS WILL BE HERE SOON.
I'M ONLY DOING WHAT I CAN DO
I'M RETURNING TO THE RESIDENCE IN TSUMORI.
THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING. I'M MIYAMOTO MASAKI—BUT MY NAME IN THIS PLACE IS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI.
SFX. DISMOUNTS

I HAVE HEARD OF YOUR NAME. YOU'RE AN OUTSTANDING AND MATCHLESS SWORDSMAN——
YOU ARE .. MIYAMOTO-DONO.
IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS HERE. PLEASE PROTECT THIS MAN.
YES, SIR.
PLEASE STAND UP.
IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO FALL ON YOUR KNEES FOR ANYONE.
EVERYONE IS EQUAL IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

LET'S GO, NATSUKI.
GO, HURRY. THE SOUND OF HORSES IS APPROACHING.
TADANAO-SAMA, PLEASE TAKE CARE.
YOU TOO.
SFX: CLIP
SFX: CLOP

SFX: CLOP
SFX: CLIP

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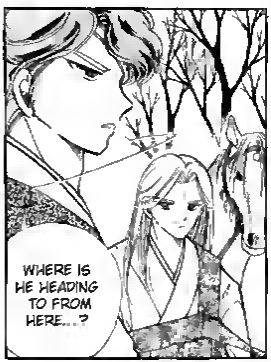


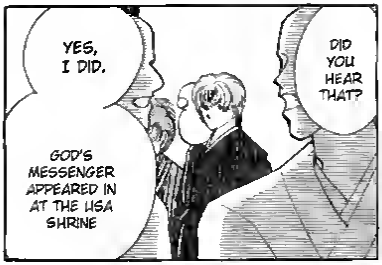
ARE YOU INTENDING TO HIDE HIM?
——ARE YOU PLAYING THE FOOL?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE SHOGUN IEMITSU-SAMA'S, COUSIN, YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE REVOLT OF THE CHRISTIANS
YOUR LIFE WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED THIS TIME——
SIGH...
IT'S ODD THAT YOU TALKED ABOUT THE INSURGENT JUST BECAUSE THERE WAS A MAN WHO HAD SAVED ME AND A CHILD.
OR ARE YOU PLANNING TO BRAG ABOUT AN UNTRUE INSURGENCY AGAIN?
TO HEAVEN.

WHY DON'T YOU SLASH ME HERE, JUBEE-DONO?
THIS TIME IF YOU THINK THAT I'M TAKING PART IN THE INSURGENCY
COME ON!
KILL THIS MATSUDAIRA TADANAO!
IF YOU'RE NOT DOING IT, I'LL BE OFF I HAVE TO RETURN THE HORSE TO THE SHRINE
TADANAO-SAMA

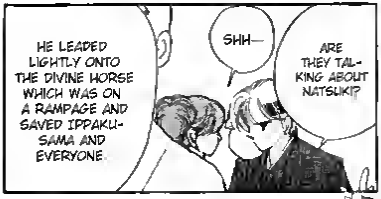
JABEE-DONO
WHAT WAS IT... THAT HAD EVEN STIRRED YOUR HEART?
ARE YOU ALSO SOMEONE WHO IS BEING CONTROLLED BY DESPAIR...?
HAH...? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
THOSE WHO CAN'T SEE THE LIGHT OF HOPE DON'T REALIZE THAT THEY'RE LIVING IN PITCH DARKNESS.

MAY PEACE AND HAPPINESS BE UPON YOUR HEART
IPPAKU-SAMA
IPPAKU-SAMA——
OOH, YOU'VE COME TO PICK ME UP
What was that?
MOUNTS

Was that a Christian's prayer?
If Jûbee delivers his report,
Iemitsu will definitely make a move.
Unless I protect it——
the light of hope of 30 000 people will be in danger.


YES, I DID.
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
GOD'S MESSENGER APPEARED IN AT THE USA SHRINE

USA (BUNGO)
EXCUSE ME, HOW MUCH IS THIS HORSE?


HE LEAPED LIGHTLY ONTO THE DIVINE HORSE WHICH WAS ON A RAMPAGE AND SAVED IPPAKU-SAMA AND EVERYONE.
SHH—
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT NATSUKI?

THERE WAS A CROSS SIGN THAT ROSE BEHIND GOD'S MESSENGER
YOU CAN SAY THAT HE'S A DIVINE BEING, EXACTLY LIKE A DEITY
USA IS THE SHRINE FOR DEITY HACHIMAN AND MAYBE THAT'S THE FORM OF DEITY HACHIMAN.
DEITY HACHIMAN IS A CHRISTIAN GOD?
HACHIMAN-SAMA IS THE WAR GOD THAT SURPASSES DEITIES AND THE BUDDHA.
SHE'S GETTING A RATHER GOOD REPUTATION

AFTER ALL, EVEN I'D BE OVERWHELMED WHEN I SEE THAT.
A SHAPE OF THE CRUCIFIX STOOD UP COINCIDENTLY
AT THE FIRE TOWER THAT WAS WRECKED BY THE HORSE——
YES, THAT WOULD SEEM LIKE A MIRACLE.
IT'S SAID THAT IF 3 MIRACLES OCCUR, THAT PERSON CAN BE A SAINT WHICH PROBABLY IS WHAT WILL BECOME OF NATSUKI SOON.
Natsuki is... really incredible...
COME, LET'S GO WE HAVE TO MEET THEM IN NAKATSU, DON'T WE?
YES.

SFX. GRABS
KOKURA (BUZEN)
HEY LADY, YOU SURE ARE FREE
WHAT A SHAME TO WASTE SUCH A GOOD WOMAN FLOWERS IN BLOOM ARE SHORT-LIVED
YOU INSOLENT MAN! LET GO OF ME!
I AM THE FIANCE OF MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-SAMA
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, GET OUT OF MY WAY!
EH MIYA-MOTO MU-SASHI
HEY, WHY ARE YOU DAUNTED BY THE NAME OF A FELLOW WHO ISN'T HERE
NOW THAT YOU MENTION MUSASHI, I HEARD A PE-CULIAR GOSSIP ABOUT HIM

SFX: SLAPS
HOW DARE YOU SPOUT SUCH NONSENSE!
WHAT'S WITH THAT →
MIYAMOTO MUSASHI IS COLLABORATING WITH GOD'S MESSENGER WHO APPEARED IN SHIMABARA
IF MUSASHI IS ALSO WITH THAT MAN, THEN YOUR FIANCÉ ISN'T KOKURA'S STRATEGIST BUT A NATIONAL REBEL.
IT'S NOT NONSENSE IT SEEMS THAT GOD'S MESSENGER HAS ALSO BEEN SIGHTED AROUND USA.
OSU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OOPS, THIS IS BAD.
THAT'S A LIE.
IF YOU SAY ANYTHING FURTHER, I SHALL KILL YOU!

SFX. CLANK
FATHER
WHY ARE YOU DRAWING YOUR DAGGER? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHY..
WHY HASN'T MUSASHI-SAMA RETURNED FROM SHIMABARA?
I WANT TO SEE MUSASHI-SAMA!
IF HE'S IN USA, THEN OSU WILL GO THERE TO SEE HIM!
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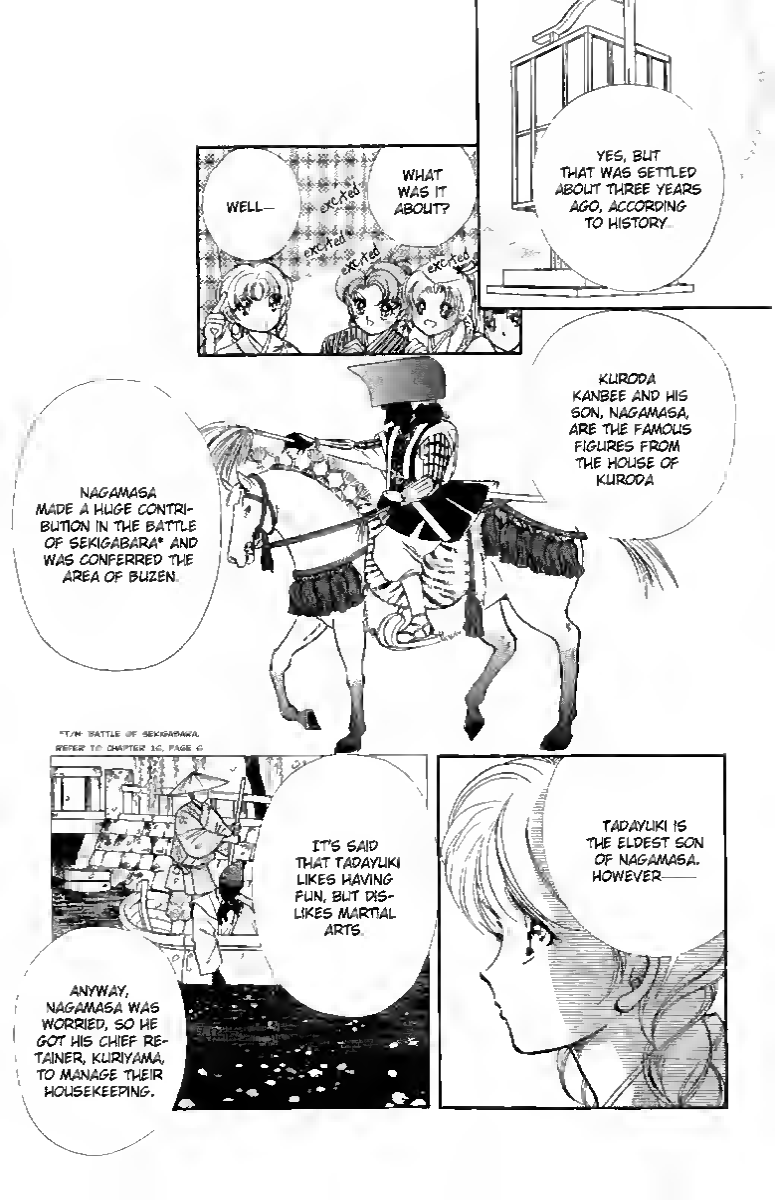
DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS. BEFORE LONG, HE'LL FINISH HIS TASK AND RETURN
LISTEN, IT'S NOT A GOOD THING FOR WOMEN TO TRAVEL.
BE OBEDIENT
NAKASU (FUZEN)
No, Osu can't wait anymore.
I want to see Musashi-sama——

KOKURA IS NEARBY THOUGH ARE WE VISITING THEM?
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO FROM NOW ON?
OR ARE WE PASSING THROUGH KOKURA TO THE KURODA CLAN IN CHIKUZEN?
YES.
AND
WE HAVE TO HURRY
I THINK IT'S BETTER IF WE HURRY TO THE KURODA CLAN THEY MAY BE EASIER TO PERSUADE THAN OGASAWARA OF THE KOKURA CLAN
Yagyu Jubee.
I FEEL THAT THE SHOGUN'S MAN IS COMING AFTER US.
I THINK HE'S COMING BY FOLLOWING THE REPUTATION OF AMAKUSA SHIROU

BY THE WAY, HOW IS THE KURODA CLAN NOW?
If that guy is serious about coming to kill me, it would be rather dreadful.
HE'S KURODA TADAYUKI, SON OF NAGAMASA.
WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE CLAN NOW?
KURODA ALSO HAS A DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE?
KURODA TADAYUKI——
HE'S THE MAN WHO CREATES A DOMESTIC MAYHEM IN THE HOUSE OF KURODA.


YES, BUT THAT WAS SETTLED ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO, ACCORDING TO HISTORY...
WELL—
WHAT WAS IT ABOUT?
excited
excited
excited
KURODA KANBEE AND HIS SON, NAGAMASA, ARE THE FAMOUS FIGURES FROM THE HOUSE OF KURODA
NAGAMASA MADE A HUGE CONTRIBUTION IN THE BATTLE OF SEKIGABARA* AND WAS CONFERRED THE AREA OF BUZEN.
*T/N: BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA. REFER TO CHAPTER 16, PAGE 6
IT'S SAID THAT TADAYUKI LIKES HAVING FUN, BUT DISLIKES MARTIAL ARTS.
TADAYUKI IS THE ELDEST SON OF NAGAMASA. HOWEVER——
ANYWAY, NAGAMASA WAS WORRIED, SO HE GOT HIS CHIEF RETAINER, KURIYAMA, TO MANAGE THEIR HOUSEKEEPING.

WOW, IS HE A DISAPPOINTMENT AND A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING DONO-SAMA?
YES— HE'S INVOLVED WITH GOOD-LOOKING YOUNG MEN WHOM HE FANCIES
HE FAVORS THEM AND EVEN ASSIGNS IMPORTANT POSTS TO THOSE WEIRD MEN
THE MAN WHO WORRIED THAT IT WILL BE THE DOWNFALL OF BUZEN AS TADAYUKI CONTINUED HIS WRONGDOINGS
WAS THE CHIEF RETAINER, KURIYAMA TAIZEN.
ADMIRABLE—
WASN'T THAT A DRASTIC ME, SURE?
YES, IT WAS.
WITH READINESS TO DIE, TAIZEN TOLD THE SHOGUN THAT HIS YOUNG MASTER IS PLANNING AN INSURGENCY.

AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, TADAYUKI WASN'T REVOLTING, HENCE THE SUSPICIONS WERE CLEARED.
SINCE THEN, HE WAS A CHANGED MAN. DURING THE AMAKUSA REBELLION, HE WAS THE FIRST CAVALRY WHO LED THE WAY TO SUPPRESS THE REVOLT
THE FIRST TO ATTACK? THAT WON'T DO
THAT WAS AFTER HE CHANGED HIS WAYS.
——ANYWAY, THAT CHIEF RETAINER WAS REMARKABLE
HE SEEMS LIKE THOSE CHARACTERS IN THE OLD MOVIES.
THE PERFECT PICTURE OF A LOYAL RETAINER.

——NO... NOT REALLY...
YOU'RE NEAR THE KURODA CLAN YOU MUST HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE RUMORS, HAVEN'T YOU MIYAMOTO-KUN?
I HAVEN'T EVEN HEARD OF——KURIYAMA SOMETHING OR ANOTHER AND THE REVOLT.
BUT I HAD HEARD THAT HIZEN WAS IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF KURODA TADAYUKI'S CORRUPTED GOVERNANCE.
BUT THAT'S ALL I KNOW...

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
COULD IT MEAN...
THAT THE DOMESTIC COMMOTION HAS YET TO HAPPEN?
HISTORY IS OUT OF SYNCH...?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN THAT'S ONE LESS PROBLEM
Yes—
Maybe we can make use of that and make the Kuroda Clan our ally.

For some reason or another the Usa Shrine is a shrine to visit It is extremely magnificent

and it makes one wonder what deity is being worshipped in the temple It is none other than Deity Hachiman, but what kind of god is he? (Although I had drawn comics concerning deities before, but) Deity Hachiman is a mysterious god that integrates Shinto* and Buddhism Moreover there's a saying that the deity had descended upon Usa, but what exactly does that mean? Nevertheless to have built such a splendid shrine in that place, it means that something has come, right? It's because of that reason that I wanted to draw this shrine

*T/N: SHINTO IS THE INDIGENOUS RELIGION OF JAPAN.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
EVIL FLOWERS!
3 years
together
with you!

3RD
I'M SO HAPPY YOU ARE RELEASING ALL MY FAVORITE PROJECTS TODAY
THERE'S BEEN A PROBLEM
THE STAFF ALL DIED FROM EXHAUSTION. THERE WILL BE NO RELEASE
SURPRISED?
SORRY FOR NOT TELLING YOU EARLIER.

The crazy rabbits!
Evil Flowers' staff!
We need Japanese Translators for all these projects!!!
Sensei to Nisshe
Rakuen Route
Honey Buster
Toki Moka
Bandage no Maihou no Shita
Mangetsu no Yoru ni Akuma no Kiss
Short Sunzen
Clover
Gal Kadou
ry Dynamite
Come and join us
If you don't want us
to send the crazy
rabbits after you!!
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